67-06-Subsidized Child Care

Fund/Agency: 001/67 Department of Family Services					
Personnel Services	\$919,892				
Operating Expenses	\$33,496,435	CAPS Percentage of Agency Total			
Recovered Costs	(\$65,626)				
Capital Equipment	\$0				
Total CAPS Cost:	\$34,350,701	04.407			
Federal Revenue	\$17,924,236	21.1%			
State Revenue	\$3,834,405				
User Fee Revenue	\$0				
Other Revenue	\$23,288				
Total Revenue:	\$21,781,929	78.9%			
Net CAPS Cost:	\$12,568,772				
		■ Subsidized Child Care			
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	20/20				

▶ CAPS Summary

Subsidized child care is an early childhood education, child care and financial support service that enables families to attain and maintain self-sufficiency. Making child care affordable and accessible to families is instrumental to the success of welfare reform. Consistent, quality early childhood education programs prepare children for successful school experiences, bridging the opportunity gap between children of different economic backgrounds.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to low and moderate income families in Fairfax County in paying for the cost of child care. Eligible families must be working, in training, or participating in the state's welfare reform initiative, VIEW. In addition to income eligible families, CCAP also provides assistance to families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and to families referred by Child Protective Services and Foster Care. CCAP subsidizes a portion or all of a family's child care costs based upon family eligibility.

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Over 8,300 children participated in CCAP during FY 2001. The average family in the CCAP program is comprised of a single parent with 1.6 children with an income of \$22,109 per year. These families reflect the growing diversity of Fairfax County residents. Over ninety percent of surveyed families are highly satisfied with the assistance they received in making child care arrangements.

Funding for the program is derived from Federal (Child Care and Development Fund), State and local sources. These multiple funding sources are managed as a single seamless system to ensure continuity of care for families.

Despite the availability of child care subsidies through CCAP, most low- and moderate-income families find it extremely difficult to afford the high cost of living in Fairfax County. Many cannot afford even the current subsidized fees for child care, and many others cannot participate in CCAP because their income is over the eligibility limit. If child care is to be affordable for these families in the near future, we must assess eligibility and co-payment requirements.

Method of Service Provision

Office for Children staff work directly with families to provide program information, determine eligibility, locate child care, assist parents in making informed care choices, and link families with other needed services. Families receive on-going case management services as required by state policy. Services are available at the Pennino building between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Services are offered weekly at DFS regional offices. Both English and Spanish message lines are available for families who call after hours. Parent and provider orientations are also offered in Spanish and English, with both daytime and evening sessions to accommodate working parents.

Families who are participating in CCAP may place their child in the care of any legally operating child care center or family child care provider. Participating providers must have a current vendor agreement with CCAP in order to receive reimbursement for care provided. Two hundred child care centers and 783 family child care providers are currently vendors. CCAP provides reimbursement to vendors monthly.

Most centers provide care between 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Family child care providers offer more flexible hours. Increasing numbers of families work evenings and weekends and need non-traditional hour child care services.

► Performance/Workload Related Data

Title	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate*	FY 2002 Estimate**
Number of children subsidized per year	6,820	7,848	7,751	8,335	9,500
Children on waiting list	491	456	1,466	966	500
Child care vendors	1,212	1,368	1,330	1,220	1,280

^{*} Data shown is FY 2001 actual.

^{**} FY 2002 estimates are based on FY 2001 actuals.

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▶ Mandate Information

This CAPS is Federally or State mandated. The percentage of this CAPS' resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 51 - 75%. The specific Federal or State code and a brief description of the code follows:

- The Child Care Development Block Grant regulations (Public Law 101-508), as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193). Regulations on having a Child Care and Development Fund program to assist low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education. The CCDF program allows State's to serve families through a single, integrated child care system.
- Code of Virginia, Sections, 63.1-133.46 and 63.1-135.52.
- Hunger Prevention Act of 1988, Public Law 100-435.